

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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SUBJECT: GENERAL MACARTHUR'S ALLEGED COMMENTS ABOUT
AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS

REF: CANBERRA 3706

1. DEPARTMENT THUS FAR HAS OBTAINED FOLLOWING REFERENCES
WHICH MAY BE HELPFUL. (A) GENERAL HQ SOUTH WEST PACIFIC
COMMUNIQUE NO. 151, SEPTEMBER 10, 1942: "DURING SEPTEMBER
THE AUSTRALIANS CONTINUED TO WITHDRAW, STILL FIGHTING
TENACIOUSLY AND GALLANTLY UNDER CONDITIONS OF EXTREME DIF-
FICULTY" (GENERAL MACARTHUR). (B) PRESS RELEASE BY SAME
HQ JANUARY 9, 1943: "THE MAGNIFICENT CONDUCT OF TROOPS
AND ELEMENTS OF THIS COMMAND OPERATING UNDER DIFFICULTIES
RARELY IF EVER SURPASSED IN CAMPAIGN HAS EARNED MY HIGHEST
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PRAISE AND COMMENDATION" (GENERAL MACARTHUR. IT IS

UNDERSTOOD FROM ONE SOURCE THAT ORIGINAL TEXT IN MACARTHUR'S HANDWRITING WAS SENT TO AUSTRALIAN WAR MUSEUM IN CANBERRA). (C) "A SOLDIER SPEAKS: PUBLIC PAPERS AND SPEECHES OF GENERAL MACARTHUR" (PRAEGER 1965, CONGRESS CATALOGUE CARD NUMBER 65-24726); "I AM GLAD TO BE IN IMMEDIATE COOPERATION WITH THE AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER. I KNOW HIM WELL FROM WORLD WAR (I) DAYS AND ADMIRE HIM GREATLY" (PAGE 115). (D) "VICTORY IN PAPUA" BY SAMUEL MILNER, IN SERIES US ARMY IN WORLD WAR II, THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC, (LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CATALOGUE CARD NO. 56-60004) OFFICIAL

US ARMY HISTORY CONTAINS LAUDATORY REFERENCES TO AUSTRALIAN FORCES. PAGE 370 NOTES THAT AUSTRALIANS TOOK EXTREMELY HEAVY LOSSES AND THAT AMERICANS TOOK NOT NEARLY SAME CASUALTIES BY COMPARISON. (E) IN "OUR JUNGLE ROAD TO TOKYO" (VIKING PRESS 1950) GENERAL ROBERT L. EICHELBERGER, FIELD COMMANDER IN NEW GUINEA, STATED (PAGE 33) "WHEN THE GOING IS TOUGH IN A BRAWL OR BATTLE, THERE IS NO BETTER FIGHTING PARTNER THAN THE MAN FROM DOWN UNDER."

2. HOPEFULLY SOME OF FOREGOING RECORDS MAY BE AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY OR GOA FOR FULLER EXTRACTS.

3. DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO CONTACTED MACARTHUR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, NORFOLK, VIRGINIA, FOR FURTHER DATA ON GENERAL'S VIEW OF VALOR OF AUSTRALIAN FIGHTING MEN.

4. WE PLAN CABLE OR POUCH FURTHER HELPFUL DOCUMENTATION AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.

5. NEW YORK TIMES JUNE 17 CARRIES ELEVEN PARAGRAPH SPECIAL REPORT FROM SYDNEY JUNE 16 HEADLINED, "REPORT ON MACARTHUR STIRS AUSTRALIA." SISCO

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